

SIHANOUK ANNOUNCES NEW POLICY SHIFT. THIS NEW POLICY INCLUDES AN OVERTURE TO U.S., A DECREASE IN KHEMER RED MILITARY ACTIVITY, AND PROVISION FOR A GENERAL AMNESTY IN CAMBODIA. HE NEVERTHELESS REAFFIRMS REFUSAL TO TALK WITH LON NOL AND ASKED THAT THE LATTER RETIRE FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE.

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SIHANOUK ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY SHIFT

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(BY AFP CORRESPONDENTS JEAN THORAVAL AND LECLERC DU SABLON)

(TEXT) HANOI, 31 JAN--PRINCE NORODIM SIHANOUK ANNOUNCED IN HANOI WEDNESDAY THAT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED NATIONAL FRONT OF KAMPUCHEA HAD BEEN REVISED FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT.

THE HEAD OF THE RGNUC (ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION), DURING A LUNCHEON WITH THE AFP CORRESPONDENTS AND WITH AUSTRALIAN REPORTER WILFRED BURCHETT, SAID HAT THIS NEW POLICY INCLUDED AN VERTURE TO THE UNITED STATES, A DECREASE OF THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE FIGHTERS, AND PROVISION FOR A GENERAL AMNESTY IN CAMBODIA. PRINCE SIHNAOUK NEVERTHELESS REAFFIRMED HIS REFUSAL TO TALKS WITH MARSHAL LON NOL'S GOVERNMENT AND ASKED THAT LON NOL DEFINITELY RETIRE FROM CAMBODIAN POLITICAL LIFE.

PRINCE SIHANOUK, WHO EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEW RGNUC POLICY HAD RECEIVED THE TOTAL SUPPORT OF CHINESE PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI AND OF THE HEAD OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, PHAM VAN DONG, ADDED: "WE ARE NOT WARMONGERS; WE DO NOT WANT A BLOODBATH, AND WE DO NOT WANT TO THROW OIL ON THE FIRE WHIXH IS ABOUT TO GOT OUT IN INDOCHINA.

PRINCE SIHANOUK, WHO MET WITH CHOU EN-LAI TUESDAY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM PEKING, IS MAKING A PRIVATE 1-WEEK VISIT TO HANOI TO OFFICIALLY CELEBRATE THE TET FESTIVITIES THERE.

HE SAID DURING THE LUNCHEON WHICH WAS HELD AT HIS PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN HANOI: IF THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO PLAY THE GAME F FRIENDSHIP WITH AN INDEPENDENT AND NONALINED CAMBODIA, WE WILL BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT A QUICK RECONCILIATION WITH THE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT. PRINCE SIHANOUK ADDED THAT HE ENVISAGED THE RESUMPTION OF A DIALOG WITH THE UNITED STATES IN TWO STAGES. HE SAID: "FIRST, A MEETING WITHOUT ANY CONDITIN TO SEE WHAT EACH HAS UP ITS SLEEVE, AND THEN NEGOTIATIONS." PRINCE SIHNAOUK ADDED THAT THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM COULD NOT BE SETTLED WITHOUT THE DEFINITIVE RETIREMENT FROM POLITICAL LIFE OF LON NOL AND HIS CLIQUE OF TRAITORS. HE SAID: WE DO NOT WANT TO CAPTURE THEM. THEY HAVE SUFFICIENTLY WELL STOCKED BANK ACCOUNTS IN SWITZERLAND. THEY MUST LEAVE.

ALTHOUGH HIS WORDS WERE CATEGORIAL, THEY APPEARED TO BE RATHER LESS VILLEN'T THEN THOSE WHICH THE RGNUC HEAD HAS USUALLY EMPLOYED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PHNOM PENH FASCISTS WOULD BE HANGED. DISCUSSING THE CASE OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE PRESENT CAMBODIAN ADMINISTRATION, PRINCE SIHANOUK SAID: "THE OTHERS WILL BENEFIT FROM A GENERAL AMNESTY. WE SUPPORTT A NATIONAL RECONCILIATION."

HE SAID: WITH THE VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE "A PERIOD COMES TO AN END AND ANOTHER ONE BEGINS. DURING THIS NEW PERIOD THERE WILL BE A NEW POLICY. WHAT DO YOU WANT? TIMES CHANGE. WE MUST ADAPT TO THE CHANGES. WE ARE DOING AS THE VIETNAMESE DO. THAT IS THE REASON FOR THE 'NEW LOOK' IN OUR POLICY. BUT WE WILL ALSO MAINTAIN OUR IRINCIPLES."

PRINCE SIHNAOUK EMPHASIZED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW POLICY WAS TO AVOID INCONVENIENCING CAMBODIA'S NEIGHBORS WHO MUST OBSERVE THE CEASE-FIRE. HE SAID: "THIS IS THE REASON WHY ON THE MILITARY LEVEL WE ARE GOING TO DELIVERATELY TEMPORIZE (TEMPORISER), LOWERING THE TONE OF OUR OPERATIONS (METRE NOS OPERATIONS EN SOURDINE) AND NOT LAUNCHING OFFENSIVE ACTIONS."

PRINCE SIHNOUK SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE DEFINITIVE RREEN LIGHT FOR THE RE-EVALUATION OF THE RGNUC'S POLICY FROM THE LEADERS OF THE DOMESTIC RESISTANCE, THE RED KHMERS LEAD BY RCNUC DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAM, WHO HAS THE LAST WORD.

HE SAID: THE JUNGLE FIGHTERS HAVE AGREED TO THE POLICY OF AN VERTURE TO THE UNITED STATES.

PRINCE SIHANOUK ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS, NO WORD HAD ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON--NOT EVEN THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF CHOU EN-LAI OR PHAM VAN DONG. PRINCE SIHANOUK SAID THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PREMIER HAD ASKED HIM WEDNESDAY MORNING WHETHER ANYTHING NEW WAS KNOWN ABOUT THE MATTER IN PEKING.

THE HEAD OF THE KHMER RESISTANCE FINALLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS COUNTING ON RETURNING BEFORE NEXT MAY TO THE LIBERATED ZONES OF CAMBODIA. PRINCE SIHANOUK, WHO SAID THAT HE WAS KEEPING THE EXACT DATE SECRET FOR SECURITY REASONS, SAID THAT HE HAD THE AGREEMENT OF THE DOMESTIC RESISTANCE FIGHTERS. PRINCE SIHNAOUK ADDED THAT HE WOULD BRING FILMS AND PHOTOS FROM CAMBIDIA TO SHOW IN PUBLIC DURING A TOUR WHICH HE WILL MAKE TO ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, ALBANIA AND AFRICA IN MAY.

PRINCE SIHANOUK, WHO WAS OVERTHROWN BY THE COUP D'ETAT LED BY MARSHAL LON NOL--WHO WAS THEN A COLONEL--IN MARCH 1970, HAS NEVER RETURNED SINCE THEN TO HIS COUNTRY AND AT THE MOMENT RESIDES IN PEKING. HE HEAD OF THE RGNUC ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES ABROAD WILL SOON RETURN TO HE INTERIOR OF CAMBODIA, AND THAT NLY A MISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONA

FRONT OF CAMBODIA WOULD
REMAIN IN THE CHINESE CAPITAL.

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